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PATENT

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 24, 25, 28, 29, 38, 39, 47, 50-52, 55 and 56, and cancel claims 26, 27, 36, 37, 49 and 54.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of the claims

1-23. **(Canceled)**

24. **(Currently Amended)** A method of treating an individual who has metastasized colorectal cancer comprising the step of administering to such an individual a therapeutically effective amount of ~~a vaccine~~ an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein comprising ~~at least one epitope~~ the extracellular domain of human guanylyl cyclase C protein.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A method of treating an individual who has been identified as being susceptible to metastasized colorectal cancer comprising the step of administering to such an individual a prophylactically effective amount of ~~a vaccine~~ an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein comprising ~~at least one epitope~~ the extracellular domain of human guanylyl cyclase C protein.

26-27. **(Canceled)**

28. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~27~~ 24 wherein the protein comprises the human guanylyl cyclase C protein.

29. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~27~~ 24 wherein the protein consists of the human guanylyl cyclase C protein.

30. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid molecule that encodes said protein is within an infectious agent.

31. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid molecule that encodes said protein is within a viral vector.

32. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 31 wherein said viral vector is a recombinant vaccinia virus.

33. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 31 wherein said viral vector is a recombinant adenovirus virus.

34. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid molecule that encodes said protein is within a bacterial cell.

35. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid molecule that encodes said protein is a plasmid.

36-37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~37~~ 25 wherein the protein comprises the human guanylyl cyclase C protein.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~37~~ 25 wherein the protein consists of the human guanylyl cyclase C protein.

40. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid molecule that encodes said protein is within an infectious agent.

41. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid molecule that encodes said protein is within a viral vector.
42. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 41 wherein said viral vector is a recombinant vaccinia virus.
43. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 41 wherein said viral vector is a recombinant adenovirus virus.
44. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid molecule that encodes said protein is within a bacterial cell.
45. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid molecule that encodes said protein is a plasmid.
46. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 25 wherein the individual has been previously been diagnosed with colorectal cancer.
47. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~27~~ 24 wherein said protein comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof comprising ~~at least one epitope of~~ amino acids 24-454 of SEQ ID NO:2.
48. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim ~~27~~ 24 wherein said protein comprises SEQ ID NO:2.
49. **(Canceled)**

50. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~49~~ 47 wherein said protein comprises amino acids 24-454 of SEQ ID NO:2.
51. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~49~~ 47 wherein said protein comprises amino acids 24-475 of SEQ ID NO:2.
52. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~37~~ 25 wherein said protein comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof comprising ~~at least one epitope of~~ amino acids 24-454 of SEQ ID NO:2.
53. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 52 wherein said protein comprises SEQ ID NO:2.
54. **(Canceled)**
55. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~54~~ 52 wherein said protein comprises amino acids 24-454 of SEQ ID NO:2.
56. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~54~~ 52 wherein said protein comprises amino acids 24-475 of SEQ ID NO:2.